Air connectivity to Port Blair

658. SHRI.RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor connectivity between the main Port Blair and the other Andaman Island is the hitch for active tourism of Andaman Island groups; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to open new connectivity other than Kolkata and Chennai for encouraging domestic and foreign tourism in Andaman Island?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Animal and bird menace around airports

659. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether airports in the country continue to be haunted by stray animals and birds menace;

(b) whether two stray dogs at Nagpur Airport kept a Jet Airways plane in the air for about 20 minutes on August 27,2003;

(c) the number of incidents of bird hits and stray animals intruding the airport flight zones during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken to prevent any hazards involving stray-animals and birds on and around airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On August 26, 2003 at time 0822 1ST, two dogs were observed crossing the runway at Nagpur airport. Jet Airways flight JAI-111 from Mumbai to Nagpur was then asked to carry out missed approach procedure and execute another ILS approach. Meanwhile dogs were chased out and the aircraft landed safely at 0845 1ST

(c) During the last three years, the number of bird hit incidents occurred is 143,140 and 101 in 2001,2002 and 2003 (Till October) respectively.